



UP THE HOLLER



DIVISION 9, MID CENTRAL REGION, NMRA

February 2021

FROM THE HEAD OF THE HOLLER

Bob Osburn, Superintendent

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For most of us, model railroading is sort of a private affair but I think we all enjoy sharing our hobby with others. We spend hours alone at home working on our hobby. Yes, there are some exceptions to this. Some members participate with other groups working on club layouts and others enjoy the fellowship achieved during operating sessions. With our group being so small and covering a large geographic area, we lose the opportunity to jointly build and operate a common model railroad at one location. The closest we have come to achieving this goal is thru T-TRAK. Not only has T-TRAK brought members of the Coal Division together, it had also united us with other divisions within the Mid Central Region and created lasting friendships. It's been a snowy, damp, and dreary winter so far and being indoors because of COVID-19 just might be the perfect time to consider a T-TRAK project. Several Coal Division members are working on T-TRAK modules at this time. If you are interested in building a module, there are T-TRACKERS willing to help. If you need information, a module kit, or materials to complete a T-TRAK project, we can find what you need, just let us know. Being involved in T-TRAK is a very economical and rewarding way to showcase your modeling skills. Best of all, it is a way to become a part of a group with a common goal of creating a Coal Division modular railroad. Sam Delauter is the Coal Division T-TRAK committee chair and a great source of information and, I'm sure he would like to help you get started with T-TRAK.

It is very apparent thru conversations with our membership we miss the fellowship and comradery of not being together as a group. We all miss attending railroad shows, attending in person meetings, and participation in NMRA events. It seems every time I open my emails another show or event has been canceled—maybe that trend will be reversed by summer. Members of the Coal Division have done a fantastic job of keeping us together during these difficult times. Reaching out to others with phone conversations, joining in on the virtual meeting, and participation in the Bull Sessions really show the character of our members. Many of us have already started the vaccination process and some hope of having in person meetings may be in the future.

For now, I hope all of you are safe and healthy. We will continue the virtual meetings until it will be safe to do otherwise. The virtual meetings are always interesting and informative. We start with the usual business meeting that include Chair reports, and then we move on to the contest and a clinic. At some time during the meeting we always have time to talk about our current projects including modeling tips and railroading in general. If you can, please join us for the February meeting—it's always great to see you.

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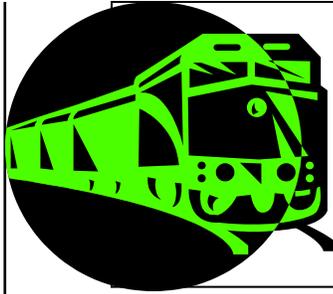
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Upcoming Coal Division Monthly Railfun Events

Saturday February 13

1 PM

Virtual Division Membership Meeting

- **Welcome and Call to Order (Acknowledge members present)**
- **Approval of Minutes from December meeting**
- **Treasurers Report**
- **Superintendents Report**
- **Assistant Superintendent Report**
- **Committee Chairs Reports**
- **Bring and Brag: Steam Locomotives**
- **Open Discussion/Questions (One at a time please)**
- **Adjourn Business Meeting**
- **5 Minute Break**
- **Clinic: Jerry Doyle tells about C&O steam**

Next Event

Saturday March 13, 2021

Zoom

FEBRUARY VIRTUAL DIVISION MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Jerry Doyle

We've all been doing our part for COVID-19 isolation measures. This means we won't be meeting in person for several months but there is another way to stay connected.

Our February meeting will be held remotely using Zoom which is very easy to use. You can use a laptop (provided it has a webcam), tablet, or smart phone. Just use the link provided below. You'll be prompted on how to connect with your particular device. You can also join

with a voice-only connection by calling one of the numbers listed.

We are planning to conduct a short business meeting followed by show-and-tell where you can show everyone what you've been working on. There will also be a railroad related clinic and possibly more.

Our meeting will be Saturday February 13 at our regular time of 1 p.m.

Topic: NMRA MCR Division 9 February Meeting
Time: Feb 13, 2021 12:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/94699471695>

Meeting ID: 946 9947 1695

Dial by your location
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

First Time Users

- On a computer: The **FIRST TIME** you open a Zoom meeting link you will be asked to download a small Zoom application file. Follow all the typical steps and allow anything requested by the app as it installs.
- On a smart phone or tablet: **BEFORE** you open the Zoom link, go to the app store and download the Zoom Cloud Meetings app from Meet Happy (the app publisher).

To join a Zoom meeting:

- See the meeting invitation above
- Open that link 10 minutes prior to the meeting
- Accept any requests for video and/or microphone
- MUTE your microphone

Other pointers

- Make sure your connection is strong
- If you have a weak connection, disconnect other devices from your home network
- For your first time, don't wait until the last minute to join
- Use the **Chat** button to view and make comments or post questions
- Click the **Invite** button to send meeting information to others
- If everything freezes, click **Leave Meeting** and rejoin using the original invitation
- You do not need to create a Zoom account to participate in a Zoom meeting

Thanks to Paul Downs of MCR Division 8 for these tips.

FROM THE OFFICE DOWN THE HALL

Sam Delauter, Assistant Superintendent

I hope that everyone is off to a good beginning of 2021. I know that the world is still in a bit of a crazy state but I hope that everyone has been able to find a release in this great hobby that we are a part of.

Although train shows are still cancelled, Trainworld had three nights of coverage of a virtual Amherst train show. Although they called it a train show, it was more of a manufacturers show. They had manufacturers of all different scales present and had quite a bit of coverage from each manufacturer. I was a little disappointed that there were no manufacturers covering z scale but that's another conversation. Although it wasn't a train show like we are used to, I did learn of a couple of announcements that I did not know of. One of particular interest to me is the Whitcomb US Army 65 Ton Centercab. In recent years, I've taken more interest in switching locos. I personally think these center cabs are very interesting and although I have no experience with Pico, I am excited about this future release.

During the past month I didn't get to spend that much time modeling but I have been doing a good job at

getting at least a little done everyday. Last month in this column, I proposed modeling at least 15 minutes everyday. Like I said last month, if you do 15 minutes of modeling everyday then you will have made progress and accomplish something everyday. I have been making progress on several projects but have been concentrating on super detailing an Athearn Mikado to be a representation of Nickel Plate Road 587. After accumulating a decent sized stash of parts, I have taken to super detailing this loco. I have been whittling away at this loco and learning a lot in the process. As of writing this article, I am very close to the paint stage. I am now looking ahead to the next set of projects. Aside of my goal of keeping a log of what I have done daily, I also would like to try to finish as many projects that I have stalled on. I mentioned that last month but am starting to dig through my past projects to try make a plan of attack to finish these projects.

With that said, I'm curious if anyone else is using my method of modeling for 15 minutes everyday. I'd love to hear of your progress. And, as always, be kind to yourself and be better to others.

CLINICS

Sam Delauter, Clinic Chair

At the January meeting, Jerry Doyle gave the clinic. He gave a layout tour and spoke of the functionality of parts of his layout his plans as he progresses with construction. Although the clinic was to be on C&O steam

locos, as always his presentation was very well done. To all the C&O fans: don't despair. Jerry is scheduled for the February clinic to speak on C&O steam.

MY WORD

Bob Weinheimer, Editor

As I write this on February 1 the NMRA's election season has opened. I received my email with a link to the electronic ballot overnight and have voted already. It's pretty easy and I urge you to read the candidate statements then make your selection. If you did not receive such a note, it means your email address is not on file with the NMRA or, possibly, it went to a spam filter. Members without an email address on file will receive a paper ballot. We all get to vote for President, Vice President, At Large North American Director, and a change to the by-laws that guide us. Those Coal Division members residing in West Virginia will also vote for an Eastern District Director. Those residing in Ohio and Kentucky had your chance last year with the Central District Director election.

Jerry Doyle has written an interesting article about Matchbox vehicles. The variety is incredible, I just wish there were some appropriate to my era (and Jerry's) of the late 1970s into the early 1980s.

Normally we don't see items for sale in Up The Hollar but something for free is different. Woody Mitchell has some stuff that needs a new home and the price is right: \$0, check them out on page 9. If you are interested, send me a note at editor@coaldivision.org and I will put you in touch with Woody.

Did you hear the big news from the modeling world? Scale Trains dot com has purchased the tooling for HO and S scale models from MTH. Their plans are to put their motors and ESU decoders in any new product including some that are in the works now. From what I heard, this could be the best of both worlds. The sale includes diesel locomotives and freight cars as well as steam locomotives and passenger cars.

Service for existing MTH products will stay with the new owners of the rest of the line. It sounds like Scale Trains got all the good with little if any of the not so great parts of MTH.

**NMRA MCR DIVISION 9
THE COAL DIVISION**

**Virtual Meeting
Using Zoom
January 9, 2021
Minutes**

Members introduced themselves and caught up each other and the various railroad projects and technology topics.

scratch made by the builder.

Meeting called to order by Superintendent Bob Osburn at 1:05 p.m.

Library

Bill Wadsworth reported on the content available in the members-only section at nmra.org.

Division Clerk Report

December minutes approved
Treasury Balance is \$8,445.35.
Company Store \$0.
Raffle \$0. Pike Ads \$0.

Contest

Dale Osburn reported on today's contest entries. The entries were presented by using power point and previously submitted pictures. Voting was done by using the private chat function in Zoom.

Superintendent Report

Robert Osburn welcomed everyone to our online meeting and thanked everyone for their participation today. He reported that other divisions are hoping to be meeting in person again by summer. He also discussed some of the criteria they were considering for in-person meetings. Robert reported we currently have 43 active members in Division 9. He expressed concern over the recent drop in membership. Hopefully we can encourage more participation once we begin in-person meetings. Robert brought up the idea of automatic renewals like many other organizations do. Bob Weinheimer noted that this has been discussed at the national level but no action has been taken. He noted that we have the ability to reach out to members at the division level right now. Mark Maynard suggested an incentive for renewing membership such as a free raffle ticket.

Clinic

Today's clinic is a presentation by Jerry Doyle on the construction progress on his home layout.

Membership

No report.

Raffle

No raffle today.

Education

No report.

Old Business

No report.

New Business

We will have an informal Out of the Holler Zoom meeting this Tuesday, January 12 starting at 7:30.

Assistant Superintendent Report

Sam Delauter mentioned that he has been trying to do something that is model railroad every day. Spending 15 minutes on a project can yield progress before you know it. He is keeping a journal on his work this year with inspiration from his grandmother.

Announcements

None

Future Meetings:

February 13 – Zoom

Newsletter - Up the Holler

Bob Weinheimer noted that the Gary Burdette Modeling Challenge provided lots of good bit of content for the current newsletter. He's always welcoming contributions for future issues.

Meeting adjourned at 2:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Doyle, Division 9 Clerk

Achievement Program

Nothing new to report. Bob Weinheimer reported on the rules regarding scratch-built content for merit judging. It is a function of a percentage of the total parts, 90 percent of the total number of parts must be

CONTEST

Dale Osburn, Contest Chair

Robert Osburn won the January contest with his N Scale Drug Store.

The voting using Zoom for the January meeting went very well. I will be keeping the log sheets while we continue to have the Zoom meetings.

February contest will be Steam Locomotives. We look forward to seeing everyone's entries for the February meeting. Please send photos and writeups of contest entries to Robert Osburn by noon the day before the meeting.

Robert Osburn—N-Scale Heljan Drug Store

This is the latest structure completed for my attic railroad. Since the building is located on hillside, a wooden foundation was fabricated and finished with stone-look paper. The brick was painted mustard yellow and a black wash was used to tone down the yellow and highlight the mortar joints. Windows, doors, and stone work were painted an olive drab and window sills painted a concrete gray. Two areas of the drug store were lit with LEDs including a backlit store front. The roof top Rexall sign is from Miller Engineering. Many other details were added to give the model a lived-in and finished look.

2021	Monthly Model Contest
January	Modeler's Choice
February	Steam Locomotives
March	Locomotive Other Than Steam
April	Kitbashing/Scratch Built (Anything Railroad Related)
May	Anything Steel Related
June	Non Revenue
July	Structures
August	Electronics of a Railroad
September	Photo, Model or Prototype
October	Open Loads
November	Passenger Cars
December	Fifth Annual Gary Burdette Memorial Modeling Challenge





James Moon
Pullman Heavy Weight Observation Car

- Built from a Walther's circa 1970's kit.
- Fully detailed interior from scratch using cardstock and Walther's car furniture details.
- Roof was shaped from milled roof stock with metal roof coping added.
- Grab irons and handrails were added.
- This car is part of a train of five cars from the same period, all being early Walther's kits.
- These cars were really one step removed from scratch built passenger cars.

Larry Richards
Watchmakers Vehicle

- 1934 Ford School Bus Kit.
- Modified to represent a traveling watchmakers repair vehicle.
- Body and roof shortened.
- New floor fabricated.
- 1940 Ford V8 motor added.
- Tow rope and chain added to front bumper.
- Complete interior with stove, workbench, and bed.
- Lettering was done one letter at a time.



Sam Delauter
Resin Flat Car with Load



For those who were in attendance at the September 2020 meeting, this car may look familiar. This was the car that I built and documented in the clinic that month. The car is a resin kit made by Funaro and Camerlengo. The kit is a craftsman kit and had to have the many pieces of the kit not only cut from a resin sheet, all of the pieces had to be filed and fit before assembly. All parts and grab irons are made to fit and installed. Once assembled was complete, it was painted with Tru-color Paint Iron Oxide and weathered with chalks. Since it is a container car, all five containers and the car itself were weathered separately. Kadee trucks and Kadee 58 couplers completed the car.

BUDGET VEHICLES FOR YOUR LAYOUT

Jerry Doyle

The HO vehicle market is thriving these days. Detailed vehicles from many eras are available but often cost upwards of \$20 or more. While these are a great choice, they can get pricy if you have to put many on your layout. A great alternative is available in the form of what many of us remember from our childhoods, the humble Matchbox car. These days the Matchbox brand is owned by Mattel (along with their former competitor Hot Wheels) and is available at most retail locations for around \$1 each. Picking good vehicles for HO takes a discerning eye however, not many Matchbox models are HO scale. Matchbox chooses the scale of each vehicle so that they all are about the same size. This means an Austin Mini and Oldsmobile Vista Cruiser station wagon are about the same size but are drastically different scales. This isn't an issue for HO modelers when looking at larger light commercial trucks though. Here are a few examples of ones that make good layout-quality vehicles with just a bit of detailing. Matchbox typically releases a new batch of vehicles every few weeks so there's a steady supply of new variations and new models to choose from. Often Matchbox omits painting common details such as headlights and taillights to keep costs down so an easy step is to paint these with a small brush. Also, the wheels will usually need repainted (they are often chrome). While these probably aren't models you'd put front and center on your layout they do a job of filling in the need for background vehicles well. The assortment featured here cost less than \$10, definitely easier on the layout budget.



Animal Protection Unit

This one is a licensed model of a 2017-2021 Ford F-250. The bed is molded in silver plastic but has a fair amount of detail that can be fleshed out with a wash of dark gray. The light bar comes molded in blue (the color of the windshield) so I painted it with Tamiya transparent orange.



Porta Potty Hauler

This one comes decorated for the "Poop King" porta potty service. It is styled like an Isuzu NPR truck from 2008-2021 but only generally, what Matchbox refers to as an "Original." It comes with a load of two porta potties that can be removed. This is probably a good price for these alone if you threw the truck away!



Dumpster Hauler

This vehicle isn't a model of any specific truck, thus avoiding licensing issues. Therefore, its styling is non-descript but looks like a typical one-ton truck from the 80's or 90's. It's used to deliver dumpsters but not empty them, what Matchbox calls a "Garbage Scout." For this one I repainted the rear section a dark gray and weathered the dumpster (which is a separate part).

TRAIN BOARDS NEED A NEW HOME

Woody Mitchell

I've been waiting for the chance to visit the club at Coonskin with the intent of finding a home (free) for some train boards I made many years ago for the family Christmas layout. Now I'm getting impatient to move these out of the garage.

Do you know anyone who might care to have these?

There are two boards; curbed on three sides; each one (outside dimensions) 57" w x 54.5" long. When combined: 109" long. There are no holes in the surface and all exposed surfaces are painted as you see; sturdily built; will tolerate frequent moves. Might serve other purposes for the right person.

I also have a sheet of 4x8 hardboard peg board and 4' x 4' peg board with attached, green painted frame I'm looking to give away.

(If interested, send a note to the editor who will put you in contact with Woody.)





PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

NMRA members can log in and click on the **Benefits** tab to view the **NMRA Partnership Program**. Please patronize all of our partners for some fantastic discounts as an NMRA member!

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Nov 2020 [New Partners in **RED** ***]

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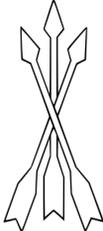
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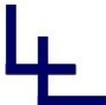


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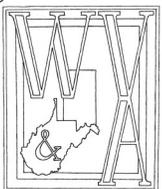


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Upcoming Coal Division Events

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February 13
Virtual

March 13
Virtual

April 10
Virtual